



Natural Resources Conservation Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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NEWS RELEASE

USDA-NRCS OFFERS COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE FOR REMOVAL OF DOWNED TIMBER

Jackson, MS, March 7, 2006 - On December 30, 2005, President George W. Bush signed into law the Defense Appropriations/Emergency Supplemental Act. This Act authorizes funds for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to assist with the recovery efforts from hurricanes that occurred in 2005.

This legislation expanded NRCS authority to reimburse non-industrial forest landowners for costs associated with downed timber removal. Mississippi NRCS has received the state allocation for landowner assistance.

Funding will focus on risk reduction associated with wildfire. Eligible sites are areas with a high risk for wildfire and associated smoke concerns, such as near transportation corridors or near structures that would be susceptible to burning.

Reimbursement will be provided to landowners based upon 75 percent cost-share not to exceed \$150 per acre.

For more information on this program, please visit your local USDA-NRCS Service Center located in your county or our website at www.ms.nrcs.usda.gov.